Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST ADOPTED BY THE 1995 REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Submitted by Egypt*

1. The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted a package consisting of three decisions and a resolution on the Middle East.[1]

2. The adoption of a resolution on the Middle East and the fact that it was the only resolution by the Conference concerning a specific region is a clear expression by the States parties of their concern over the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East resulting from the existence of ambiguous nuclear policies and unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in the region endangering regional and international peace and security.

3. As the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons starts its first session, and in order to achieve the universality of the Treaty, there is an urgent need to assess the situation in the Middle East in the light of the aforementioned with a view to adopting recommendations by the Preparatory Committee pertaining to ways and means to ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the resolution.

4. Since May 1995, some specific positive developments have taken place and should be taken into consideration, these are:

(a) All States of the Middle East have become parties to the Treaty except Israel, the only State in the region that is not a party to the Treaty and that has not declared its intention to do so;

(b) The continued adoption by consensus, for the seventeenth year in a row, of a resolution by the General Assembly calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East;

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* On behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

(c) The widespread support for resolution 51/48 of 10 December 1996 adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on agenda item 74, entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East" calling upon Israel, the only State in the Middle East that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. This support reflects the increased concern of the international community resulting from the fact that Israel is defying the repeated calls to join the Treaty;

(d) The readiness demonstrated by Arab States to take practical steps towards the establishment of an effectively verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and to refrain from taking any measures that preclude the achievement of this objective in accordance with paragraph 5 of the resolution of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.[1] On the other hand, Israel continues to prevent and avoid any discussion on this issue in all relevant forums, particularly at the regional level.

5. Any assessment based on these considerations will lead only to one conclusion, namely that all Arab States are complying with the provisions of the Treaty as well as with the letter and spirit of the resolution, while Israel continues to defy those repeated calls by refusing to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope safeguards.

6. It is therefore imperative that the Preparatory Committee address this important issue with a view to correcting the existing imbalance between the compliance by all Arab States with their obligations in accordance with the Treaty and the resolution on the Middle East on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the risk imposed by Israel's ambiguous nuclear policies and its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities to the whole region of the Middle East.

7. All States parties to the Treaty, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, have a responsibility to extend their cooperation and to exert their utmost efforts to achieve the full implementation of the resolution. The role of the depository States in shouldering their primary responsibilities as co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East is crucial in implementing the resolution.

Notes

[1] 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.